

**IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
  - a variable display device configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows each having a symbol placement face formed in a curved surface on which a plurality of symbols are placed;
  - an image display device being provided in front of and opposed to the variable display device and configured to display the symbols through a flat symbol transmission face and to display an image concerning a game;
  - a symbol illumination device configured to illuminate the symbols; and
  - an image display assistance device being provided lateral to an area between the variable display device and the image display device to cover an area sandwiched between the symbol placement face and the symbol transmission face, and configured to assist image display of the image display device,
    - wherein the symbol illumination device comprises a rear illumination lamp configured to illuminate the symbols from behind the symbols, and
    - wherein the image display assistance device reflects light emitted from the rear illumination lamp.

2. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
  - a variable display device configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows on which a plurality of symbols are placed;
  - an image display device being provided in front of the variable display device and configured to display an image concerning a game;
  - a symbol illumination device configured to illuminate the symbols; and
  - an image display assistance device being provided lateral to an area between the variable display device and the image display device and configured to reflect light emitted from the symbol illumination device and to assist image display of the image display device,
    - wherein the symbol illumination device comprises a rear illumination lamp

configured to illuminate the symbols from behind the symbols, and  
wherein the image display assistance device reflects light emitted from the  
rear illumination lamp.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the symbol illumination device comprises a front illumination lamp configured to illuminate the symbols from a slanting direction of the front of the symbols, and wherein the image display assistance device reflects light emitted from the front illumination lamp.

5. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image display assistance device is attached to a housing that houses the variable display device.

6. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image display assistance device comprises a white plate.

7. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image display assistance device comprises a mirror plate.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:  
a variable display device configured to variably display a plurality of symbol rows on which a plurality of symbols are placed;  
an image display device being provided in front of the variable display device and configured to display an image concerning a game;  
a side illumination device being provided lateral to an area between the

variable display device and the image display device and configured to illuminate the symbols from a side of the symbols; and

a case that houses at least a part of the variable display device; and

a rear illumination lamp disposed behind the symbols and operative to illuminate the symbols from therebehind,

wherein the side illumination device includes a plate attached to the case and a lighting device provided on the plate.

10. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a first display device configured to variably display a plurality of symbols;

a second display device including a display panel that is provided opposed to and spaced from the first display device, and the second display device configured to display the symbols through the display panel and to display an image concerning a game on the display panel; and

a display assistance device provided lateral to an area between the first display device and the display panel of the second display device and configured to assist image display of the second display device; and

a rear illumination lamp disposed behind the symbols and operative to illuminate the symbols from therebehind.

11. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 10, further comprising an illumination device configured to illuminate the symbols,

wherein the display assistance device includes a reflector that reflects light emitted from the illumination device.

12. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 10, wherein the display assistance device includes an illumination device that illuminates the area between the first display device and the display panel of the second display device.